

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A connector with a housing ~~(30)~~ formed with a plurality of cavities ~~(31)~~ for receiving a corresponding plurality of terminal fittings ~~(10)~~, said cavities ~~(31)~~ being disposed side-by-side such that each said cavity ~~(31)~~ has at least one adjacent cavity ~~(31)~~, said adjacent cavities being separated from one another by lateral walls, each said lateral wall having a cut away portion for providing communication between the adjacent cavities, a resiliently deformable lock ~~(40)~~ in each of said cavities ~~(31)~~ for locking one of the terminal fittings ~~(10)~~ in the respective cavity ~~(31)~~, and at least one resiliently deformable coupling piece ~~(51)~~ extending through the cut away portion in the lateral wall and coupling said locks ~~(40)~~ of the adjacent cavities ~~(31)~~, such that the coupling piece resists deformation of the respective locks and enhances a locking force on the terminal fitting.

2. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein each said lock ~~(40)~~ has a length and the coupling piece ~~(51)~~ extends over substantially the entire length.

3. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the coupling piece ~~(51)~~ is arranged adjacent a guide groove (36) is provided in the each said cavity (31) for allowing a stabilizer (27) of the terminal fitting (10) to be inserted therein, the guide groove being aligned with the coupling piece along an insertion direction of the terminal fitting into the cavity.

4. (currently amended) The A connector of claim 1 with a housing formed with a plurality of cavities for receiving a corresponding plurality of terminal fittings, said cavities being disposed side-by-side such that each said cavity has at least

one adjacent cavity, a resiliently deformable lock in each of said cavities for locking one of the terminal fittings in the respective cavity, and at least one resiliently deformable coupling piece coupling said locks of the adjacent cavities, wherein the lock (40) has a locking portion (45) for locking the terminal fitting (40) and the coupling piece (51) has a thickness that increases at further distances from the locking portion (45).

5. (currently amended) The connector of ~~claim 1, wherein~~claim 4, wherein at least one cut-away portion (31R; 31L) is provided in the housing (30) in a position in at least one lateral walls substantially corresponding to between the adjacent cavities, the coupling piece (51) extending through the cut-away portion of the lateral wall for coupling the locks of the adjacent cavities.

6. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the lock (40) is slightly narrower than the cavity (34).

7. (canceled).

8. (currently amended) ~~The A connector of claim 7 with a housing formed with a plurality of cavities for receiving a corresponding plurality of terminal fittings, said cavities being disposed side-by-side such that each said cavity has at least one adjacent cavity, a resiliently deformable lock in each of said cavities for locking one of the terminal fittings in the respective cavity, and at least one resiliently deformable coupling piece coupling said locks of the adjacent cavities, the terminal fittings each comprising a locking projection with which the lock cooperates for locking the terminal fitting in the respective cavity, wherein the each lock (40) comprises an insertion groove (49) for allowing insertion of the locking projection (23).~~

9. (currently amended) The connector of claim 8, wherein the insertion groove ~~(49)~~ has a bottom with a rear section sloped towards a base end and leading section substantially parallel to an insertion direction ~~(4D)~~ of the terminal fitting ~~(10)~~ into the cavity ~~(31)~~.

10. (currently amended) The connector claim 9, wherein the coupling portion ~~(51)~~ is sloped substantially parallel to the insertion groove ~~(49)~~.

11. (currently amended) The connector of claim 1, wherein the coupling pieces ~~(51)~~ are unitary with the respective locks ~~(40)~~.

12. (currently amended) The connector of claim 11, wherein at least one of the locks ~~(40)~~ is coupled to the locks ~~(40)~~ of two adjacent cavities ~~(31)~~ by two of the coupling pieces ~~(51)~~.

13. (currently amended) A connector with a housing ~~(30)~~ having opposite front and rear ends and a plurality of cavities ~~(31)~~ extending between the front and rear ends, said cavities ~~(31)~~ being disposed side-by-side such that each said cavity ~~(31)~~ has at least one adjacent cavity ~~(31)~~, lateral walls separating each said cavity ~~(31)~~ from each of said adjacent cavities ~~(31)~~, each said lateral wall having a cut-away ~~(31L, 31R)~~ extending rearwardly from the front end of the housing ~~(30)~~, a resiliently deformable lock ~~(40)~~ cantilevered forwardly in each said cavity ~~(31)~~, and at least one resiliently deformable coupling piece ~~(51)~~ coupling said locks ~~(40)~~ of the adjacent cavities ~~(31)~~, said coupling piece ~~(51)~~ extending through the cut-away ~~(31L, 31R)~~ of the respective lateral wall.

14. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein the coupling pieces ~~(51)~~ are unitary with the respective locks ~~(40)~~.

15. (currently amended) The connector of claim 14, wherein at least one of the locks ~~(40)~~ is coupled to the locks ~~(40)~~ of two adjacent cavities ~~(31)~~ by two of the coupling pieces ~~(51)~~.

16. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein each said lock ~~(40)~~ has a length and the coupling piece ~~(51)~~ extends over substantially the entire length.

17. (currently amended) The connector of claim 13, wherein the lock ~~(40)~~ has a locking portion ~~(45)~~ in proximity to the front end of the housing ~~(30)~~ and the coupling piece ~~(51)~~ has a thickness that increases at further distances from the locking portion ~~(45)~~.